

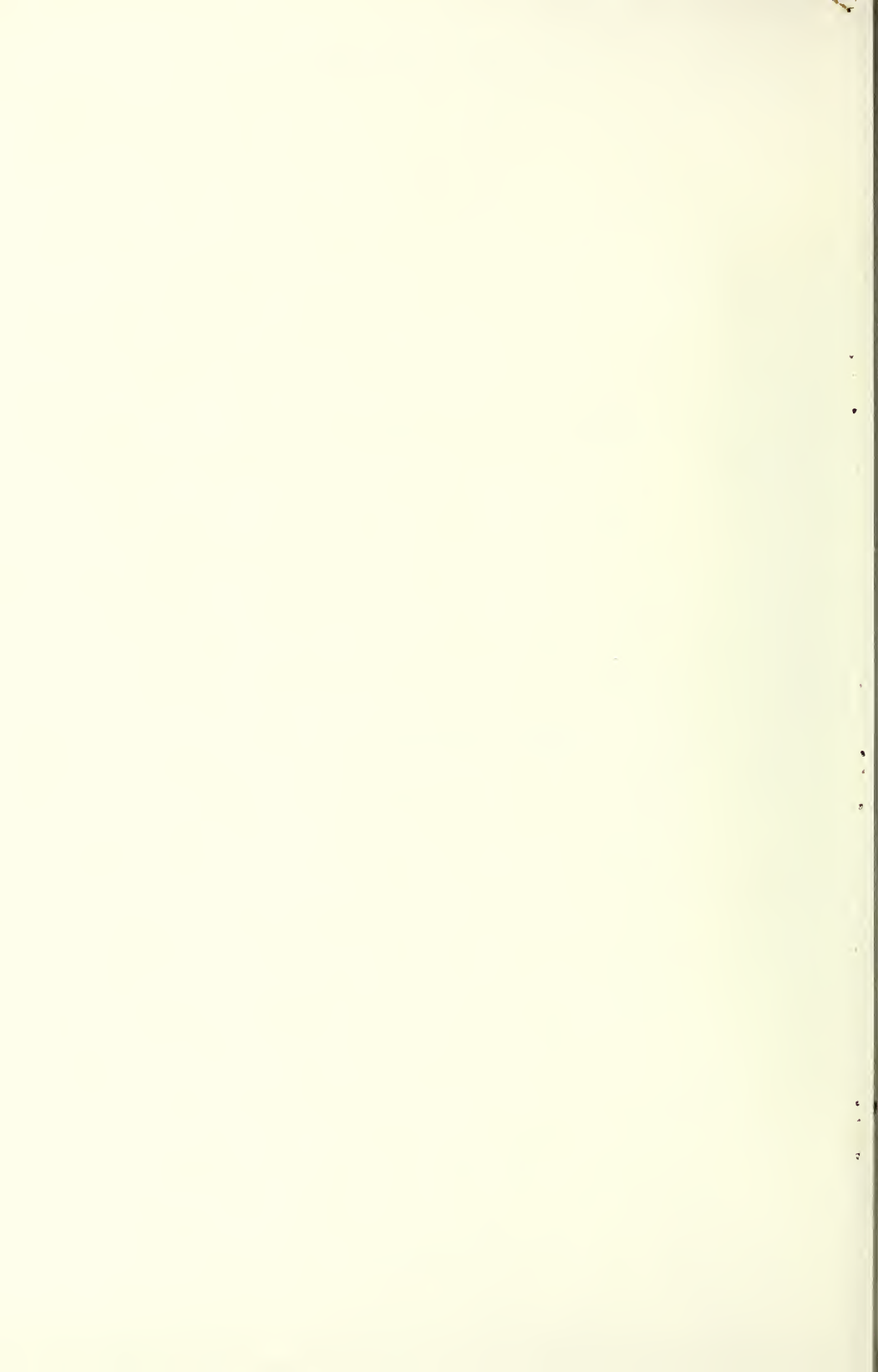
BLABY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1950



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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the Health of your district for the year 1950.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Population: The Registrar General's estimate for 1949 is 39,130, which is an increase of 770 over the previous year.

			1949	1950
Births: Legitimate	M. 276	F. 291	615	567
Illegitimate	M. <u>10</u>	F. <u>8</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>18</u>
	<u>286</u>	<u>299</u>	<u>642</u>	<u>585</u>

Birth-rate	16.7	14.9
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Birth-rate for England and Wales	17.9	15.8
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Still-births (none were illegitimate)	10	13
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Deaths M. 188 F. 170 Total 358		
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Death-rate (crude)		
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Registrar General's Correction Factor for age and sex	1.04	
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Corrected death-rate	9.5	
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Death-rate for England & Wales	11.7	11.6
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Deaths of Infants under one year of age	19	12
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(No infant death was illegitimate)		
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Infant mortality rate per 1000 births	29.5	20.5
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" " " for England & Wales	32	29.8
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Causes of Death

The chief causes of death were: Heart disease 106, Cancer 84, Vascular lesions of nervous system 53, Bronchitis 4, Pneumonia 8, Congenital malformation 2, Nephritis (kidney disease) 5, Tuberculosis 10, Road traffic accidents 1, other violent causes 6, Influenza 1.

COMMENTS ON STATISTICS

Birth-rate

The birth-rate continues to fall, from 16.7 to 14.9.

Death-rate

The death rate (9.5) compares with 11.6 for England and Wales which is satisfactory.

The following are the figures for the past five years:

	<u>Blaby R.D.</u>	<u>Eng. & Wales</u>
1945	9.5	11.4
1946	10.9	11.5
1947	10.2	12.0
1948	9.2	10.8
1949	<u>9.5</u>	<u>11.7</u>
Average	<u>9.8</u>	<u>11.4</u>

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality showed a slight rise over the previous year, which was exceptionally low. Blaby R.D. continues to compare favourably with the country as a whole. Thus the average for the five years (1944-49) was:

Blaby R.D.

England & Wales

35

42

Cancer

I regret to report that the cancer deaths were up again, the figure being 84. I have frequently commented on the increase in cancer deaths.

As regards the cause and prevention of this dreaded disease I fear there is nothing of real importance to report. Investigations on a large scale are continually being made.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The Blaby R.D. is situated to the south-west of the City of Leicester, with which it is contiguous. On the north-west it adjoins Market Bosworth R.D., it makes a small contact with Hinckley R.D. on the west; on its southern boundary it is contiguous with Lutterworth and it makes a slight contact with Billesdon on the east.

Blaby R.D. is really only semi-rural in character. This is due, largely, to its contiguity with the City of Leicester. The parish of Braunstone, the nearest to Leicester, has a population of over 7,000, nearly one quarter of the population of the whole district. Six other parishes, Narborough, Enderby, Glenfields, Glen Parva, Kirby Muxloe and Blaby, have populations between 2,500 and 3,500, while four other parishes, Countesthorpe, Whetstone, Stoney Stanton and Croft, have populations between 1,000 and 2,000.

The average population of the 19 parishes (excluding four hamlets) is 1,700.

In this respect Blaby Rural District is in marked contrast with the rural districts which adjoin it. Lutterworth R.D., for example, is purely rural in character, and the average population of its 25 parishes, including the small country town of Lutterworth, is only 420.

Various industries are carried on in the District, notably quarrying in Croft, Enderby and Stoney Stanton.

As regards sanitary amenities, such as water supply, sewage disposal, refuse collection, transport and housing, Blaby R.D. is better provided for than most rural districts. Schemes have been prepared for making good any deficiencies, and these are being put in hand as fast as national conditions permit.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Notification of Infectious Disease

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Cases notified in 1950</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Scarlet fever	28	-
Whooping cough	118	-
Diphtheria	2 (not confirmed)	-
Measles	251	1
Acute pneumonia	22	8
Cerebrospinal fever	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	19	1
Dysentery	73	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	1 (not confirmed)	-
Typhoid fever	-	-
Paratyphoid fever	-	-
Erysipelas	4	-
Pulmonary tuberculosis	20	10
Other forms of tuberculosis	5	-

Five cases of food poisoning were reported.

Measles

This disease was confined almost entirely to two parishes: Blaby with 111 cases, and Glen Parva with 50 cases.

As I have said in previous reports, in my opinion the notification of measles is not worth the expenditure of time and money which it involves. Started as a war-time measure it is a pity it was not discontinued when the war ended.

Whooping cough

An effective and reliable method of immunizing against whooping cough, comparable to immunization against diphtheria, has not yet been discovered, and the Government has, therefore, not yet thought fit to recommend it. Meanwhile research is being carried on and when the time comes the Government will no doubt act. A report has recently been issued by the General Medical Council which shows that vaccines prepared after an American prescription are very hopeful.

Scarlet fever

Scarlet fever is steadily becoming of little importance. Once again it caused no deaths, and out of 908 cases notified during the past 12 years only two have proved fatal.

Poliomyelitis

19 cases of this serious affection were notified during the year. The cases were chiefly confined to Braunstone Parish, the only other cases being two in Blaby, two in Glenfield and one each in Huncote, Kirby Muxloe and Whetstone.

Four of the cases were in adults and of these one, a married woman of 31, died in hospital. This was the only death. Of the remainder 5 were children under 5 and 10 were over 5. Some of the cases have recovered completely but some will, it is to be feared, have some paralysis for the rest of their lives.

One reason that Braunstone suffered so much more severely than the rest of the Blaby D.R. is its proximity to Leicester, for an



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outbreak of the disease was present in the City of Leicester for most of the year. Epidemiologically Braunstone must be regarded as one with Leicester.

Food poisoning

Of the five food poisoning cases the most important were four cases in one family; father, mother and two children. They had been on a trip away from Blaby R.D. and were taken ill upon their return. The outbreak was investigated by the local M.O.H., but I do not think the source of the trouble was accurately traced. Our cases quickly recovered

Tuberculosis

The number of fresh cases of tuberculosis notified was: pulmonary, 20; non-pulmonary, 5. As shown in the following table, if we compare the last five years with the preceding five years, there has been a substantial reduction in tuberculosis. The table also gives the number of deaths, and these too show a reduction.

Tuberculosis in the Blaby R.D.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Cases</u>		<u>1940 - 49</u>		<u>Deaths</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Other</u>		
1940	20	12		15	2		
1941	37	14		20	5		
1942	43	11		13	4		
1943	24	14		23	3		
1944	<u>35</u>	<u>7</u>		<u>11</u>	<u>2</u>		
Average	<u>32</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>19</u>	
1945	18	3		12	2		
1946	18	4		18	3		
1947	11	14		10	-		
1948	19	11		10	1		
1949	<u>30</u>	<u>7</u>		<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>		
Average	<u>19</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>13</u>	
1950	20	5	25				

Diphtheria

The virtual disappearance of diphtheria from the Blaby R.D. since immunization was introduced is certainly very gratifying.

The following table is certainly remarkable. No correction has been made for cases in which the diagnosis was not confirmed because in the earlier years our records do not enable this correction to be made. Thus, none of the four cases shown for 1949, or of the two cases in 1950, proved to be diphtheria, and only one of the three for 1948. There has been no death from diphtheria in Blaby R.D. for the last 5 years.

The figures for the country as a whole show a similar big reduction. It is too soon yet to be quite certain that the reduction is due, or entirely due, to immunization, but as far as they go they are certainly very satisfactory

Diphtheria Statistics

<u>Year</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
1936	31	-
1937	32	2
1938	26	2
1939	23	-
1940	53	5

(Immunization begun)

1941	44	1	Only one of these six fatal cases had been immunized, as mentioned above
1942	30	3	
1943	11	-	
1944	16	-	
1945	25	2	
1946	11	-	
1947	5	-	
1948	3	-	
1949	4	-	
1950	2	-	

Diphtheria Immunization

Under the National Health Service Act diphtheria immunization was taken out of the hands of the District Council and placed under the County Council.

As shown in the following table the number of children immunized has been fairly well maintained. There has been some diminution but not very much, and allowing for the fact that it takes time for any new arrangement to get going the figures may be regarded as satisfactory.

The following table shows the amount of immunization done each year since the scheme was started:

Diphtheria Immunization in the Blaby R.D. 1941 - 1949

	<u>Sessions</u>	<u>Under 5</u>	<u>5 - 14</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Re-immunized</u>
1941	84	730	2333	3063	
1942	52	526	431	957	
1943	105	536	361	897	
1944	102	570	76	646	
1945	96	589	91	680	177
1946	90	447	133	580	786
1947	90	568	70	638	170
1948	-	610	43	653	410
1949	-	510	28	538	373
1950	-	423	37	460	263

Immunization taken over by the County Council mid-year 1948.

If we take the average of the last four years that the Blaby R.D.C. was carrying out the work themselves the figures for primary immunizations was 636, while the corresponding figure for 1949-1950 was 499, or a reduction of 22%.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL RETURN

A large mass of detail is given in the Annual Report made by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. J. Galsworthy.

Pail Closets

He estimates that there are still 1759 pail closets remaining in the district, 177 having been converted to water-closets during the year. This is rather more than in the previous year.

The contribution made by the Council towards the cost of conversion (half the cost up to a maximum of £7.10.0 per closet) is really a very good investment, even if only looked at from the financial aspect, as it saves the Council the heavy continuing expense of emptying the pails. Pails are emptied by the Council weekly, during day time. Cesspools are emptied (in all parishes except Glenfields) every three months.

There are now no privies in the district.

Milk Supply

As regards milk supply, there are 29 distributors of milk and 10 dairies to whom 27 visits were made; 90 samples of milk were taken by the district inspectors for bacteriological examination, 13 of which were reported as being unsatisfactory.

As regards ice-cream, there are 50 retailers in the district, 9 of whom manufacture and retail, 116 samples were taken with the following results:

Grade 1	71
Grade 2	37
Grade 3	8
Grade 4	0

Slaughter Houses

There are 18 private slaughter houses in the district, at which 660 animals were slaughtered; more were slaughtered elsewhere. Your inspector made 174 inspections of meat at the time of slaughter.

Water Supply

A piped supply was substituted for well water in 73 cases. Of the houses with a piped supply 10663 are supplied direct the remainder (490) from standpipes. Of 71 samples of well water 59 were reported as being unsatisfactory.

Public Cleansing

Scavenging is carried out by direct labour. House refuse is collected weekly as far as possible, six "Karrier" collecting vehicles being used.

Overcrowding of Dwelling Houses

14 houses (including 3 fresh cases) were known to be overcrowded and 11 cases were relieved.

HOUSING

The importance of good housing conditions is now so well recognized that it is not necessary to stress it here. Fortunately the acute shortage of housing conditions which followed as a consequence

of the cessation of building during the war is now being overtaken, although still acute in many districts.

The following figures showing what has been accomplished in the Blaby R.D. since the war have been supplied by Mr. F.W. James, the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

Temporary Bungalows (prefabricated)

Kirby Muxloe	10	All completed and occupied
Braunstone	20	
Whetstone	20	
Countesthorpe	10	
Cosby	10	
Narborough	10	
Enderby	20	
	<u>100</u>	

Permanent Houses (including agricultural cottages)

	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Completed & occupied</u>
Blaby	128	118
Braunstone	126	106
Cosby	48	24
Countesthorpe	42	4
Croft	44	-
Elmsthorpe	4	4
Enderby	58	28
Glenfields	81	80
Narborough	98	96
Sapcote	26	24
Sharnford	6	4
Stoney Stanton	20	12
Whetstone	58	10
	<u>739</u>	<u>510</u>

Additional Sites

Sites for houses to meet additional needs are being purchased and developed as follows:

Aston Flamville	4	Huncote	48
Blaby	42	Kilby	12
Braunstone	74	Kirby Muxloe	28
Cosby	30	Sapcote	26
Countesthorpe	28	Sharnford	40
Elmsthorpe	4	Stoney Stanton	38
Enderby	72	Thurlaston	18
Glenfields	54	Whetstone	<u>63</u>
			<u>581</u>

The development of these sites is dependant upon the future allocation of new houses to this district under the zone scheme.

Houses by Private Enterprise

457 houses have been licenced by the Council for letting, sale, or owner-occupation, and good progress is being made by private enterprise in this respect, 452 houses having been completed.

Applicants waiting for Houses

At the end of the year there were 759 applicants for houses remaining on the waiting list, this is an increase of 78 as compared with the previous year and gives some indication of the needs of the District as regards new houses.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The following figures have also been supplied by the Council Engineer and Surveyor:

Main drainage exists in 12 parishes and is required in 8, viz:

Sapcote	Kilby
Sharnford	Aston Flamville
Stoney Stanton	Wigstone Parva
Thurlaston	Elmsthorpe

The remaining three parishes, Leicester Forest West, Lubbesthorpe and Potters Marston, are purely agricultural and sparsely developed and will no doubt have to rely upon cesspool drainage for many years to come.

A main drainage scheme has now been approved for Sapcote, Sharnford and Stoney Stanton which it is hoped to commence in 1951 at an estimated cost of £78,000.

New sewage disposal works for Enderby, to cost £20,000, are to be commenced in 1951.

The construction of new sewage disposal works for the parishes of Narborough and Cosby, the cost of which is £23,000, was completed in 1950.

Schemes have been prepared and submitted to the Ministry for the parishes of Kilby (£12,600) and Thurlaston (£14,200). Extensions to several more sewage disposal works will be required to deal with post-war housing development, and to improve certain existing works, in order to receive the additional sewage from over 2,000 pail closet conversions.

WATER SUPPLY

A piped water supply is available in 18 parishes and is required in three, viz:

Aston Flamville	Kilby	Thurlaston
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Schemes for providing these parishes with a piped supply have been submitted to the Ministry of Health and a scheme for Wigston Parva at a cost of £6,400 has been completed.

Negotiations with Leicester Corporation and Hinckley U.D.C. have been in progress for a considerable time regarding additional supplies of water for the Blaby R.D. and the Ministry has been asked to endeavour to expedite agreement in the matter.

Croft Water Supply

The parish of Croft is supplied with water by the Croft Granite Co. This water is excessively hard, a fairly recent analysis showing 78 degrees of hardness, and in the past it has been harder still.

Such an extremely hard water is not a good water and is most unsuitable for domestic purposes. It should only be tolerated if a good soft water is not available. As a matter of fact, however, Croft is now in the area of supply of the Leicester Corporation and the Blaby R.D.C. have applied to the Ministry of Health for sanction of a loan to enable them to lay a main from the neighbouring village of Huncote (already supplied with Leicester water) to their new building estates at Croft. It is greatly to be desired that the whole parish of Croft should be supplied from the same source in place of the existing supply.

Deficient Water Pressure at Enderby and Countesthorpe

The parishes of Enderby and Countesthorpe are apt to suffer a serious shortage of water at week-ends owing to lack of pressure in the supply from the Leicester Corporation. Representations have been made to the Leicester Corporation on the matter and they propose to remedy the trouble by constructing a new reservoir at Enderby of about one million gallons capacity. It is hoped to put this in hand in the near future.

Conclusion

As this is the last report I shall have occasion to present to you may I take the opportunity of thanking every member of the Council and also its Chief Officers for the unfailing courtesy and consideration they have shown to me during the eleven years it has been my privilege to be your M.O.H.

My resignation as your M.O.H. takes effect from 30th June, and after that date Dr. H. Temple Phillips, one of the Assistant M.O.H. to the Leicestershire C.C., will be your M.O.H. He is well qualified for the post.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. Killick Millard.

The Gilroes,
Leicester.
June, 1951.

